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Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00423 261049Z

10
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 030819
P R 261012Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5997
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0423

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SY
SUBJECT: LETTER TO LEN CAMPBELL FROM PLF LEADER
OSMAN SABBE

REF: DAMASCUS 0414

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DELIVERED TO EMBASSY JAN. 25 BY ERITREAN EMISSARY FOR MR. LEN CAMPBELL, FATHER OF STEVEN CAMPBELL, FROM OSMAN SALEH SABBE. IT IS IN RESPONSE TO MR. CAMPBELL'S LETTER (STATE 011610) WHICH EMBOFF DELIVERED TO SABBE JAN. 24 (DAMASCUS 0414): QUOTE DEAR LEN CAMPBELL, I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER THROUGH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN DAMASCUS IN WHICH YOU EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE DETENTION OF YOUR SON STEVEN CAMPBELL BY OUR REVOLUTIONARY FIGHTERS IN ERITREA. I UNDERSTAND QUITE RIGHTLY YOUR ANXIETY AS A FATHER ABOUT THE FATE OF STEVEN. STEVEN OR ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL UNDER DETENTION BY OUR REVOLUTION ARE
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INNOCENT PEOPLE AS FAR AS THEIR PERSONS IS CONCERNED.

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BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, MANY A TIME, INNOCENT PEOPLE
BECOME THE VICTIMS OF WAR. THE ISSUE IN WHICH
THEY ARE INVOLVED IS A POLITICAL ONE WHERE OUR
REVOLUTIONISTS ARE REACTING -- IN THEIR OWN WAY --
AGAINST AMERICAN WEAPONS KILLING THEIR PEOPLE AND
DESTROYING THEIR VILLAGES INDISCRIMINATELY.
HOWEVER, WE AS THE FOREIGN MISSION OF THE REVOLUTION
DISAGREE WITH OUR FIGHTERS IN THE MATTER OF DETAINING
ANY FOREIGNER FOR WHATEVER REASON UNLESS HE HIMSELF
IS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE WAR AGAINST OUR PEOPLE.
OUT OF THIS PRINCIPLE WE ARE TRYING OUR BEST TO
RELEASE YOUR SON AND OTHERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
AND WITHOUT PRECONDITION WITH MUCH HOPE TO ACHIEVE
SUCCESS. A SPECIAL ENVOY HAS BEEN SENT THIS WEEK
FOR THIS PURPOSE.
I ASSURE YOU ALSO THAT STEVEN AND HIS COLLEAGUES
ARE RECEIVING KIND TREATMENT AND ARE SUPPLIED WITH
THEIR NEEDS TO THE BEST POSSIBLE CAPACITY. PLEASE
CONVEY MY SINCERE GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES TO HIS
WIFE AND MY HOPE THAT HE WILL JOIN HER SOON. WITH REGARDS,
YOUR SINCERELY, OSMAN SALEH SABBE, PLF SPOKESMAN UNQUOTE.

2. LETTER DATED JAN. 25. LETTERHEAD STATES: QUOTE
ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT, PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FORCES
FOREIGN MISSION, P.O. BOX 2102, DAMASCUS UNQUOTE.

3. LETTER ACCOMPANIED BOOK BY SABBE ENTITLED
"HISTORY OF ERITREA" AND TWO COPIES OF ERITREAN
DRAFT CONSTITUTION ENTITLED "A DRAFT FOR THE
CONSTITUTION, INTERNAL ORGANIZATION, POLITICAL AND
OPERATION PROGRAM." HEADING OF CONSTITUTION SAME
AS ABOVE PARA TWO SANS P.O. BOX, LETTER DOCUMENT
IS IN ENGLISH AND WILL BE FORWARDED UNDER COVER
AIRGRAM TO DEPT. DEPT. PLEASE ADVISE WHAT
DISPOSITION IT WISHES MADE OF SABBE'S "HISTORY",
WHICH IS IN ARABIC.

5. SABBE HAS A RESIDENCE IN DAMASCUS AND, ACCORDING
TO MFA SOURCE, IS RELATIVELY WEALTHY. HE WOULD
PROBABLY BE AMENABLE TO FURTHER EXCHANGES WITH LEN
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CAMPBELL, EITHER WRITTEN OR TELEPHONIC, IF DEPT
THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE HELPFUL.
MURPHY

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NNN

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To: STATE
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